The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, C. under the Act of August 24, 1912, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

VOL. 11. NO. 35. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1921. WHOLE NO. 554.

MERCHANT MARINE COMPETITORS AIDED BY AMERICAN RAILROADS

"Molders of Public Opinion" Ignore Exposure But Back Roads' Wage Reducing Plan

Washington, Nov. 19.—The charge by United States Senator Ransdell that American railroad owners have contracts with foreign steamship companies, while American vessels are idle, is a hard blow to rail owners, who have spent vast sums to develop a public opinion favorable to them.

Their raids on the treasury, their wage-cutting, and their general anti-union policy do not square with their statements that they are "trustees of a public utility," that they are only serving the public, that they are actuated by patriotic motives, etc., etc.

Now it is shown that they have pledged British, Japanese, Scandinavian and German ship companies "to make every effort within reason" to secure the necessary amount of freight required by the foreign ships, to aid these companies against all competitors (American ships compete with these foreigners), to use their influence to secure tax exemptions and harbor dues for the foreigners, give them free wharfage and other concessions and deliver coal to them below the market price and never over $5 a ton.

The law provides that the railroads shall file copies of every contract relating to traffic with the interstate commerce commission. It is now discovered that the contracts referred to by Senator Ransdell have not been filed. The commission has ordered the railroads to comply with the law, and the senate, on motion of Senator Jones, of Washington, requests the commission to furnish it a copy of these contracts.

Officers of the National Merchant Marine association state that there is no record of an agreement whereby an American railroad is pledged to secure trade for shipping under the American flag.

"With the government turning over many millions of dollars to American railroads, with the railroads utilizing their resources to secure business for foreign steamship lines, even to the extent of employing solicitors to get cargo, a remarkable situation is developed," these business men declare. "For, while the government is forced to tie up hundreds of its vessels for lack of freight, American railroads continue to turn over cargo to foreign steamship lines, and these lines continue to gain steadily in the percentage of our ocean commerce which they carry, while our vessels transport less and less.

"Thus the government, by its payment to the railroads, is using its money to foster competition with its own shipping and thereby add to the heavy burden of loss."

Some of the largest railroad systems have entered into these exclusive agreements with foreign companies. They include the Pennsylvania, Baltimore & Ohio, Boston & Albany (New York Central system), Philadelphia & Reading, Boston & Maine, Grand Trunk, Norfolk & Western, Missouri Pacific and Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul.

Rent Laws Opposed; Ignore Court Rule

New Orleans, Nov. 19.—The nation's investment bankers do not like laws that regulate rents. At their convention in this city legislation of this character was denounced as "confiscatory of private property." It was claimed that the principle on which the regulating philosphy was founded might lead to an agitation against the enforcement of railroad bonds and other securities, depriving the owners of the right to collect as effectively as the real estate owners.

The investment bankers took this position in defiance of a contrary ruling by the United States supreme court, which recently upheld the validity of the Ball rent act, passed by congress, and which applies to the District of Columbia. The court said:

"The general proposition to be maintained is that circumstances have clothed the letting of buildings in the District of Columbia with a public interest so great as to justify regulation by law. Plainly circumstances may so change in time or so differ in space as to clothe with such an interest what at other times or in other places would be a matter of purely private concern."

The supreme court quoted numerous instances and former decisions where property rights were cut down "and taken without pay." The court also referred to the power to pass this legislation under the right of eminent domain, quoting decisions "to establish that a public exigency will justify the legislature in restricting property rights in land to a certain extent without compensation."

HEALTH RULES SAVE LIFE.

New York, Nov. 19.—Observance of health rules by mothers in the tenement district of the east side has made it possible to have a lower infant death rate in that section than in other sections of the city, said Dr. Royal S. Copeland, city health commissioner, in opening a health exhibit in this city.

He said that the general death rate in this city dropped the last 50 years from about 28 in 1,000 persons a year to 12 last year and possibly 11 this year, although New York city has areas of greater congestion than any other metropolitan district in the world, not excepting China. In one square mile in the lower east side are 500,000 persons, and there are many blocks with 10,000 persons. Despite this congestion, he said, the death rate for one period in the summer had dropped to 8 in 1,000 persons.

State Health Commissioner Biggs said that great cities could not take care of such large masses of population if preventive medicine had not made such enormous advances.

START MUNICIPAL STORE.

Lewisham, England, Nov. 19.—Public officials and the unemployed throughout England are watching the progress of Lewisham's municipal store.

Dissatisfied with the exchange value in goods obtained by the unemployed on their credit relief slips, local authorities opened the store to give the best possible value to the needy. A saving of 30 per cent is claimed, representing £200 ($1,000) a week to the taxpayers, and incidentally increased supplies to the workless.

Some shopkeepers have two sets of prices—one for the unfortunate, armed only with the municipal credit slip, and another for the cash customer.

NEW ANTI TRICK.

Richmond, Cal., Nov. 19.—Anti-union elements are urging the passage of a city ordinance which would prohibit any one from going on premises where a building is under construction. The building trades council is objecting to the proposal.

Tile Owners Plead Guilty; Held Up Material Prices

New York, Nov. 19.—More than 50 firms and individuals belonging to the tile and mantel combine pleaded guilty in the federal court to the charge of dividing up this business. Where one of the defendants was assigned to care for a certain amount of business he could charge his own price, and his associates would submit higher bids, known as "accommodation bids," to make his bid appear low.

Members were furnished with information about contracts to be let in their exclusive territories and other members were notified that they were not to make any boni fide attempt to obtain such contracts. A black list was maintained to enforce the rules of the combination.

One of the attorneys for the prosecution is quoted as saying that "many of these men are guilty of practices which no decent firm would be guilty of, whether those acts were forbidden by the Sherman anti-trust law or not."

The maximum sentence is one year in jail or $5,000 fine or both.

FIGHTING SECESSION.

Los Angeles, Cal., Nov. 19.—The central labor council has unanimously voted to unseat any delegate who associates with the latest secession plan, known as the "rank and file" movement. The scheme originated in San Francisco, and is backed by the crowd of bubble blowers well known to western trade unionists.

In approving the action of the local central body, its official newspaper, the Citizen, says:

"No person will deny that there is tremendous room for improvement in the A. F. of L. and in every international union. There is no such thing as perfection in the labor movement, nor is there likely to be. But matters certainly will not be mended by the tactics resorted to by would-be disruptionists. Their work in San Francisco should serve as a warning to the entire state.

"The labor movement is busy fighting its legitimate enemies. It must not be subjected to assaults by persons in its own ranks who should devote their time to constructive, and not destructive, undertakings."

BOSSES IGNORE LAW.

Denver, Nov. 19.—"The Pikes Peak Consolidated Fuel company and the Keystone Mining company of Colorado Springs are so accustomed to forgetting the laws of the state and nation that they overlooked a hearing set by the state industrial commission to consider their own request that the commission cut miners' wages 30 per cent," says the Labor Bulletin.

The state law provides that the companies must appear before the commission before they can reduce wages. The miners were unorganized when the cut was made, but they have since joined the United Mine Workers of America, and announce that they will endeavor to compel the companies to pay $18,000 back wages under the terms of the government's bituminous commission, which has been ignored by the companies.

MORE WORKERS EMPLOYED.

Albany, N. Y., Nov. 19.—The state department of labor reports a 2½ per cent gain in employment from September to October. Although increases among the individual industries were not as large as some of those reported in September they were more general.

TIRE WORKERS UNITE.

Trenton, N. J., Nov. 19.—Faced by a wage cut of from 10 to 34 per cent, tire workers at the Ajax auto tire plant have organized. The workers say they are driven at a killing pace to earn a living wage under present rates.

LOW-WAGE ADVOCATES ARE POOR PROPHETS

New York, Nov. 19.—After the din and clatter about building revivals when wages are reduced, these prophets are smoked out. Wages have been lowered but the revival has not materialized and now they are murmuring—but very guardedly—that monopoly may be responsible for the high cost of building material.

These hints are found tucked away in the financial sections of newspapers, while the front pages and editorial columns continue the bluff that "high" wages is responsible. One local paper says:

"The question in the public mind today is: 'What is making the price of building material higher?'

"The case of common brick is fairly typical of the market. Banks in manufacturing districts are disturbed by constant utterances to the effect that a condition exists in the Hudson river brick industry of conspiracy, combination and illegal control of distributing markets in violation of the law. These allegations have never been judicially affirmed, yet the banks, acting conservatively, and being guided by natural business prudence have, by their attitudes discouraged loans to operators or of leased yards.

"In the Hudson river district there was, 10 years ago, 119 brick manufacturing plants producing annually about 1,200,000 common brick. Today there are only 55 yards operating in the Hudson district.

"Saturday there were only two barges of brick available for the building industry of a city of 6,000,000 people, with construction activity greater than at any time since before the war in certain kinds of building work and yet the wholesale price of $14.50 and $15 a thousand for common brick was firm, whereas, the price of this basic building commodity would not be anything like that figure if brick production could be raised to something like normal proportions."

NEW MOVE IN MOONEY CASE.

San Francisco, Nov. 19.—Counsel for Thomas J. Mooney, who is serving a life sentence for alleged complicity in the 1916 preparedness day bomb outrage, is preparing an appeal from the decision last spring denying a motion for the common law writ of audita querela.

This writ is of ancient English origin. It permitted the king to hear a case, when all court procedure was closed to the plaintiff.

Because of the numerous confessions of perjury in connection with the prosecution of Mooney, his attorneys have endeavored to secure a new trial, but under the California law a new trial can only be secured on the record of a case. In this case there are no irregularities in the record. The irregularities were exposed after the case ended and the record was closed. Under the law the only recourse is the governor.

A pardon by the governor would only involve the liberty of an individual and would not reveal the methods used by the prosecution, which is challenged by friends of Mooney to favor pardon with the understanding that he will be retried on other murder indictments. This challenge has not been accepted.

Attorneys for Mooney unearthed the century-old writ of audita querela and asked a lower court to issue this writ. This would mean a reopening of the case. The court refused the request, and this decision is now appealed.

WANTS CAPITAL DEFLATED.

Aston, England, Nov. 19.—Capitalists must wipe out their watered stock says S. T. Goggins, secretary of the District Weavers' association in his quarterly report.

"The exploiters in their scramble to get rich quick omitted to take into consideration the fact that they have to rely on foreign markets to keep their machinery going. The purchasing power of the foreigner not having increased in the same ratio as ours, prices got too high and he ceased to buy our own. Concessions obtained by the workers under the boom are now being fleeced from them and industrial discontent and semi-starvation are the outcome of artificial post-war prosperity

"Unemployment insurance has been tried, but without success. Reductions in wages have taken place with similar results and the workers are now at the end of their resources.

"The deflation of over capitalization may appear drastic, but the disease is serious and calls for strong measures. If the slump in trade continues much longer, some of the undertakings may lose all their capital."

FARM WAGES DROP.

Washington, Nov. 19.—A survey by the department of agriculture shows that farm wages by the month, with board, averages $29.48 this year, or a drop of 37 per cent from the $46.89 of last year, which was the highest ever recorded in this country. In 1916, the year before the United States entered the world war, the rate was $23.25, making the present average $5.23 a month over pre-war rates.

By the month, without board, the rate declined from $64.95, the high point, to $42.65, this year, or 34 per cent. The pre-war average was $32.82.

"Harvest wages by the day," continues the report, "declined nearly as much in one year, from 1920 to 1921, or $3.60 to $2.12, as they gained in the four years 1916 to 1920, or $1.69 to $3.60. Without board, harvest wages shared in the general spectacular movement and rose from $2.07 in 1916 to $4.36 in 1920, followed by a decline to $2.80 in 1921."

STRIKEBREAKER ON TRIAL.

Richmond, Cal., Nov. 19.—J. C. Emerson is on trial for setting fire to a warehouse owned by the Associated Oil company. Employes of the concern were on strike at the time and Emerson was employed as a watchman. When the fire was discovered the accused said he saw a man escape in a boat. The company offered a reward for the fire bug, but when Emerson was arrested the authorities were amazed when they discovered that no one connected with the company would swear out a warrant against Emerson. The grand jury was convened to probe the matter and an indictment was handed down against the alleged "watchman."

Recently Emerson was arrested in Stockton with a suit case filled with dynamite.

Contract-Breaking Employers Force Gigantic Garment Strike

LABOR COST ON WOMAN'S CLOAK IS SMALL.

The labor cost on a woman's cloak that retails for $40 is $7. The retailer pays $28 for the garment.

The labor cost on a cloak that sells for from $75 to $100 is from $10 to $12. The retailer buys the garment for about one-half of his selling price. The same proportion applies in more expensive garments.—President Schlesinger of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, in answering manufacturers' claim that a 10 or 20 per cent wage reduction will affect selling prices.

New York, Nov. 19.—More than 60,000 garment workers are on strike in protest of one of the most glaring instances of contract-breaking in the history of the trade union movement.

These workers are members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union. Their contract does not expire until the middle of next year. They also have a joint board which stands instructed to investigate production conditions. This board was to report on Nov. 1, but before that date the employers declared for a return to the piece work system and the long work week.

By the record-breaking vote of 38,672 to 162 the workers declared they would strike rather than return to former conditions.

President Schlesinger of the garment workers' union charges the bosses with attempting to destroy the union. In support of this charge the union executive makes public confidential letters from the manufacturers' association, written several weeks ago, in which manufacturers in other cities are asked to confer with the employers in this city and "perhaps" act collectively on matters concerning their relations with the union.

The manufacturers first claimed that the union "leaders" were attempting to force a strike, which the membership does not want. The astounding strike vote, however, has answered this claim. Now the bosses are attempting to gain public opinion by the claim that if they win, prices will be reduced. President Schlesinger shows that the labor cost of a $40 garment under present conditions is but $7, and for a $100 garment but from $10 to $12.

Seamen Are Loyal; Oust Sky Shooter

San Francisco, Nov. 19.—The organized seamen of the Pacific coast have reaffirmed their loyalty to the trade union movement, and made amends for indifference in the election of an editor of their official magazine by expelling John V. Thompson.

At the last election for editor of the Seamen's Journal Thompson was backed by every element that would "swing the world by its tail." Trade unionists supported Editor Scharrenberg, whose election was taken as a matter of course. This indifference resulted in Scharrenberg's defeat by 45 votes. The new editor changed the policy of the paper to suit his adherents, and at the following convention of the International Seamen's union all connection was severed with the Seamen's Journal.

President Furuseth has led the fight against the bubble blowers, and has traveled up and down the coast during the last several months in a contest with this element.

When the seamen were aroused to the dangers of I. W. W.ism charges were preferred against Thompson for violating the constitution of the union. This forced a show-down, and when the sky-shooters were driven into the open their spokesman was sent through the ropes.

PREFER WOMAN LABOR.

Washington, Nov. 19.—Women carrying lumber is depicted in a pamphlet "Health Problems of Women in Industry," issued by the women's bureau of the department of labor.

Under the picture is this information: "One employer said he preferred women to men because women always carried two planks at once if they could possibly manage it."

The pamphlet makes this reference to conditions under which many mothers are forced to live:

"Long hours in the factory are not as serious for the man, who is through work when he leaves his job at night, as they are for the woman who has often several hours of housework to do after she gets home. The married woman in industry, who is forced to work because of economic necessity, brought about by her husband's death, incapacity or inability to earn an adequate wage for himself and his family, must usually take whatever job she can get, without much question of wages or hours

"But she is the one worker in all the group who must need the protection of the law, for the care of her children and household will take many hours and much strength, and her health will suffer if hours of work are not limited."

RAIL INCOMES GAIN.

New York, Nov. 19.—Railroad incomes are increasing; ditto railroad poverty pleas. The September net operating income of 197 of the class 1 roads amounts to $82,707,607, an increase of 11 per cent, compared with $74,493,573 reported for September, last year.

COAL OWNERS' "AILBI" INSULT TO COUNTRY

Charleston, W. Va., Nov. 19.—Stung by the exposures of their gunmen, Logan county coal owners are financing a publicity bureau in this city and are circularizing the country with "Coal Facts."

In the first issue is discussed "Mine Guards and 'Gunmen' in West Virginia."

They insist that they do not employ deputy sheriffs. All they do is furnish the money and the sheriff of Logan county employs them.

By this legalistic hairsplitting the coal owners hope to escape the odium of making gunmen in that county possible.

In the matter of armed guards, this question is airily dismissed by the claim that watchmen are employed to make inspection of the mines when not in operation and that these guards insist on carrying revolvers.

The childish simplicity which these autocrats assume would be amusing if the intelligence of the American people was not involved.

TEAMSTERS ARE ENJOINED.

New York, Nov. 19.—A sweeping injunction has been issued against 12,000 striking milk wagon drivers, who are enjoined from acting along lines that would be considered legal if no strike existed. The strike is because of wage disputes. The companies have refused the men's offer to arbitrate, which is urged by City Health Commissioner Copeland. The companies are demanding the anti-union shop and are attempting to make a concession to the spirit of the age by organizing company "unions."

The increase in child mortality is charged to "the lack of milk and possibly to a lowered standard in the quality of milk" by Commissioner Copeland.

"The milk companies are running true to form," he said, "just as they always hit upon the same form of employment contract. There is something remarkable about the mental processes of milk dealers. They invariably reach identical conclusions. Mr. Horton (president of the Sheffield Farms company) has turned down the appeal of the men. His company has determined upon the anti-union shop and to deal with the individual alone. Collective bargaining is scrapped and employment is based on the moss-covered records of Mr. Horton's time as a milk driver."

WANTS MANY JOBS.

Washington, Nov. 19.—W. K. Vanderbilt, of New York, has asked the interstate commerce commission to permit him to hold his present offices as director in 22 different transportation companies. The law prohibits interlocking directorates unless the interstate commerce commission finds this compatible with public interest.

RAIL MANAGERS' WAGE IS DISCUSSED

Washington, Nov. 19.—President Harding receives $75,000 per annum as the head of a nation of more than 100,000,000 people and the president of the Pennsylvania railroad is paid $75,460 per annum, said Congressman Parks of Arkansas.

"Looking back across the years to the beginning of the life of organized labor and the day of starvation wages, what do we find?" he asked.

"Without organized labor, without their battle for a just and fair wage and reasonable hours of work, what would have been the condition of labor today?

"It was only at the command of the congress of the United States that the railroads equipped their trains with safety appliances for the protection of the lives and the limbs of those who drive the locomotive, set the brakes or direct the train. I recall that again and again these men, seeking to earn their bread in the sweat of their faces—men who were free and not slaves—found it necessary to appeal to the lawmakers, and the government once more stepped in and said that a man should not be required to work more than 16 hours a day; and then, when the day of fast trains with the increased hours incident thereto came, and with the terrible responsibilities of life and property in the hands of the employes, they again found it necessary to appeal to the government to say what should be a day's work.

"From the day the first piece of steel was laid until this hour, the railroads have demanded from the laborer all that physical endurance and the laws of the land would permit; they have taken from the public every ounce of flesh they were able to extract; they have never yielded until they had fought every inch of the way and exhausted every remedy know to the law; they have demanded of communities rights of way, station sites and bonuses; they have received from the hands of the government enormous tracts of land to induce them to extend their lines, until today their properties are worth $20,000,000,000.

"Yet, while you and I and the world are safely sleeping after a day's work, these railroad employes, who are so severely censured when they stand up for what they deem to be their rights, and even threaten to strike, must go out into the night and into the storm and rain, doing their part to keep the wheels of trade moving and to silence the howl of the wolf at the door. Shall we condemn the man for using the only weapon for his defense that he has?

"Let us inquire if he is really overpaid under present conditions. The labor board has recently said that the average day's wage for all classes of railway employes is $4.54. Allowing nothing for sickness or vacations, taking out only the four Sabbath days a month, he works 26 days a month, and earns $118.04, or $1,416.48 for a full year. Naturally, some deduction must be made for sickness. It is easy to see that this is not sufficient to supply a man of family with the necessities of life."

Congressman Parks included in his speech a long list of high salaries paid railroad officials and attorneys. On one railroad—the Pennsylvania—the average salary of 20 of these individuals is $20,722.50.

HIGH LIVING COSTS NOT CAUSED BY TAXES

Washington Nov. 19.—The excess-profits tax nor the income tax are responsible for the high cost of living" said Senator Jones of New Mexico, who quoted this portion of the United States war industries board's "History of Prices During the War:"

"During the war prices rose less in England and the United States, which imposed heavy excess profits, than in France, Germany and other countries which used the tax with less vigor or not at all."

Senator Jones also quoted this statement by Dr. Adams, tax expert in the federal treasury department:

"In this country the movement of prices have borne no intelligible relation to the excess-profits tax. Prices rose more in the 12 months preceding the adoption of the excess-profits tax. The same is true of uncontrolled prices."

"I submit," said Senator Jones, "that the excess-profits tax or other income tax had absolutely nothing to do with the increased cost of living. The manufacturers would have charged the prices, anyway."

He pointed out that the war industries board permitted the commodities under its control to be sold at a price which would permit high-cost concerns to make profits, while the low-cost concerns enjoyed this added advantage.

"But the commodities which were not controlled," said Senator Jones, "mounted higher and higher, showing that in the business world during that time of stress there was no conscience which would put a limit upon the price which manufacturers would charge for their commodities; that they would charge as high prices as they could get."

DEFEAT COOLIE PLAN.

Honolulu, Nov. 19.—George W. Wright, of the central labor council, has returned from Washington where he assisted in labor's fight against coolie importation to these islands. Writing in the Labor Review of Hawaii, he says:

"The persistent opposition of Mr. Gompers and the A. F. of L. to any modification of the Chinese exclusion laws proved effective in blocking the attempt of the Hawaiian sugar planters to orientalize still further a territory of the United States."

The Labor Review calls attention to declarations by the sugar planters that they must continue the sugar industry under decreased acreage.

"This," says the Labor Review, "is a practical admission that the planters have met defeat in their lobbying campaign in Washington, and that labor's fight in the national capital for the preservation of American standards of living has turned out to be a complete success. The defeat of the bill is certain unless some shady politics are introduced by the advocates of the bill.

"The statement by George W. Wright, special delegate to Washington, from the central labor council of this city, proved such a conclusive refutation of the sugar-coated conspiracy which was being instituted for the passage of the bill that no other course was open to congress."

SANITARY LABOR CAMPS PAY.

San Francisco, Nov. 19.—"Operators who once complained of the quality of labor which came to them, now plan to make their camps so attractive that they will draw and keep the better class of labor," says the commission of immigration and housing of California, in its latest pamphlet on "Camp Sanitation and Housing."

In reviewing its work of labor camp improvement, the commission says that camp conditions in 1914 in California "were unspeakably bad."

"Like all fundamental social reforms, the undertaking of labor camp sanitation and housing did not come suddenly. There has been a growing conviction among those interested in all progress that in labor camps, where men work under adverse social conditions, added stress must be laid upon the connection between the "physical, mental and moral well-being of these men."

The commission says that from the start it conducted a campaign of education—to convince employers that "anything" was not "good enough" for these workers and that loyalty and efficiency could not be expected from men who were fed in dust-filled, fly-infected tents, and given a "hundred acres for a bed."

MEAT MARKET GLUTTED.

Washington, Nov. 19.—The London meat market is glutted, according to a cable to the department of agriculture, from the American agricultural commissioner at London. Prices have slumped and cold storages are filled. Approximately 1,000,000 carcasses of lamb and mutton are being held in refrigerator ships. The widespread drop in prices is said to be due to poverty. The government is holding approximately 2,240,000 pounds of mutton.

The wholesale price of Scotch beef has decreased 4.8 cents a pound, and of chilled beef, 8 cents, since September 21. New Zealand lamb is selling at 14.4 cents a pound wholesale, a drop of 4.8 cents in one month. The price of mutton has decreased 1.6 cents since September 21 and is now selling at 12.8 cents a pound wholesale; ewes at 9.6 cents. Heavy supplies of meat are reported in ships sailing for England.

BIG PROFITS IN OIL.

New York, Nov. 19.—The Pan-American Petroleum and Transport company announces a "fair" profit to its stockholders for the first six months of the present year. Every share of common stock, at a par value of $50, will yield a return of $6.44. The clear profits for the six months is $8,519,937.

This is after interest charges on bonds have been met, taxes paid, large sums set aside for depreciation and depletion, and juicy salaries paid to officials.

In the first six months of last year the profits were $4.50 a share of common stock, making a gain of $1.94 a share for 1,403,534 shares outstanding.

NEW LABOR OFFICIAL.

San Francisco, Nov. 19.—Governor Stephens has appointed Walter G. Mathewson state labor commissioner. The new official is secretary of the Santa Clara county building trades council.

STRIKE RIGHT IS NATURAL RIGHT; EXISTED PRIOR TO STATE ITSELF

--Cardinal O'Connell

Boston, Nov. 19.—The strike is a natural right; it is man's natural defense; it existed prior to the state itself and is a right which no society can annul, said Cardinal O'Connell, of this city, in a pastoral letter.

The reasoning of this church man is a contrast with the claim of "can't-strike" advocates, that strikes should be outlawed when they inconvenience the public—or, in other words, that a right can be set aside when it discommodes society; and that the state, created by man, can deny rights inherent in man.

"It is a natural right of man to give or withhold his labor," said the cardinal. "It is man's defense against injury and oppression. Man's right to strike is then a natural right.

"A strike is not war, save figuratively, but like war it should be considered a last resort.

"The state has the right to suppress a civil war, but a strike should never be civil war. Some times incidental to a strike, but not at all necessary, and greatly to be deplored by true friends of labor, are intimidation, disorder, riot and violence. A strike of itself does not imply any disturbance of the peace.

"Strikes are called more frequently on account of failure to pay a just wage than for any other reason. If employers would recognize man's right to a just wage, another great mile stone of progress toward industrial peace would be passed.

"There is plenty to go round in this rich country of ours.

"The state should always maintain discipline, but the state has no right to prohibit a just strike.

"The evils and abuses of the present industrial system cannot be too strongly deplored. The aloofness of the employer from the worker, the concentration of wealth in the hands of the few, the oppression of the worker are abuses which, while not universal, are altogether too common. Stories of excessive profits and low wages, of heartless dismissals, or inhuman disregard of labor, are a disgrace to our democratic state.

"We must not look upon labor as merely the expenditure of muscle or intellectual energy, or as a commodity to be bought and sold. There is a moral element which must be considered. Man is not an irresponsible machine."

WHAT IS "CAPITAL?"

Manchester, England, Nov. 19.—Recent speeches in favor of settling industrial disputes on the basis of a fixed rate of interest on capital and a minimum wage for labor causes the Cotton Factory Times to ask: "What are we to regard as capital?"

"It is impossible that employers can be allowed to bring in a great amount of watered capital to rank for dividend and thus deprive the workers of their true share of legitimate profits. There would have to be some understanding as to what is fair capital, as well as what constitutes a fair return on that capital.

"Merely to say that because a firm has a certain amount of capital down on its books it is, therefore, entitled to a certain dividend on it, is to beg the whole question. Labor could never accept such a position."

In commenting on pleas for "forbearance" between the two interests, the editor says that the tendency toward trusts rapidly dissolves whatever humanitarian link there might have been between employer and employed under the old system, and that the only interest stockholders now have in a business is to secure a satisfactory dividend.

"The need for forbearance is great, but the signs of the times declare it to be a diminishing quantity.

"The only way in which to overcome difficulties of this description is by a removal of the suspicion that one class is seeking to obtain an advantage over the other, and this can only be done when all are convinced that the basis on which agreement is to be reared as a superstructure is an absolutely fair and sound one and we are building on the rock and not on shifting sand."

WANT WAGES REDUCED.

Chicago, Nov. 19.—Four of the "big five" meat packers have called on their recently-organized company "unions" to prepare for wage cuts. The packers have not indicated how much reduction they want, but this can be arranged later. The present move is merely preliminary. The workers in this industry who are members of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's union have empowered their officials to call a strike is necessary.

The advantage to the meat packers of a company "union" must now be apparent to every worker. The packers refuse to treat with the boni fide union, but will do business with a "union" of their own manufacture. The company men in this so-called "union" will fight for a reduction and then the meat barons will stand aside and point to "our loyal employes."

The packers' "union" is not considered seriously by the bulk of these employes, but through the assistance of straw bosses and intensive publicity it has secured a standing in certain quarters.

GUILD IDEA SPREADING.

London, England, Nov. 19.—"Guild principles in industry have come to stay," says the labor editor of Reynolds's Newspaper.

"Among the latest to adopt this idea seriously are a number of London tailoring employes, who have established themselves under the title of the guild of clothiers, guaranteeing the best possible work produced under the best possible conditions. Judging from the satisfactory results which have attended the efforts in the building and other trades, there is little reason to anticipate anything but success in the new venture. While guaranteeing good work and contented employes with reasonable profits, there is considerable attraction for business men in the guilds, owing to the almost total lack of risk of unfulfilled contracts through labor troubles."

SALES TAX NOT DEAD.

Washington, Nov. 19.—Senator Smoot has given notice that the sales tax fight will be continued, because "the country is heart and soul in favor of this plan."

In view of emphatic expressions for a soldiers' bonus at the recent elections, it is hinted that the plan is to hide the sales tax behind a great hip, hip, hurrah for a sales tax to pay a soldiers' bonus. This would permit big business to escape additional taxes.

COURT MUST DECIDE IS PICKETING LEGAL

Washington, Nov. 19.—For the third time the United States supreme court has ordered arguments on whether picketing is legal.

The case was argued before the court on October 8, 1918. Two years later—on October 9, 1920—it was again argued, and now the court is having lawyers discuss the case again.

It is the first time the question has ever been presented squarely to this court and the time given to it by the supreme justices would indicate they realize its importance.

In November, 1913, the American Steel Foundries, a New Jersey corporation, closed its plant at Granite City, Ill. On April 14, the following year, it reopened and employed but 370 of the 1,200 laid off. A committee representing the central trades council and various locals called on the management, but the committee was refused a hearing. A strike was called and the unionists picketed. The company appealed to Federal Judge Humphreys for an injunction, which was granted. The court held that there is no such thing as peaceful picketing and that the Granite City central trades council is an unlawful combination.

On appeal to the United States circuit court of appeals, Judge Humphreys' views were set aside. The circuit court refused to rehear the case, and the company appealed to the United States supreme court, which has had the case before it since March 7, 1917.

URGE "NET PROFIT."

New York, Nov. 19.—Officers of the National Dry Goods association have notified members that the time has passed for doing business on a "liquidation basis," and a net profit should be insisted on. It is stated that "it may take courage" to ask higher prices, but conferences with banks has encouraged the officers of the association to stick for higher prices as "sufficient losses have aready been suffered in the inventory and in forced selling."

The letter is a clear intimation to wholesalers that the banks have concluded there has been enough "squeezing" and the time has arrived for stiffening prices.

It would be interesting to know what these business men would say if workers demanded a net profit—if they insisted on a wage sufficient to care for their family in comfort, to set aside money for a "contingency fund" for sickness and unemployment, to provide for a "depreciation fund," that would care for them in their old age, and to also have a net profit after all these demands are met.

This is the financial system employed by business men who are only willing to give workers a wage that will keep them but one day from the bread line.

SEAMEN'S STRIKE ECHO.

Norfolk, Va., Nov. 19.—Suit for $600,000 damages against the United States has been filed in the federal court by the Czarnikow Rionda company and the Cuban Trading company.

These concerns claim losses on a cargo of sugar shipped in a United States shipping board's vessel that was manned by a strikebreaking crew.

The suit is an echo of the seamen's strike, when the shipping board and private vessel owners joined hands, early this year, to lower wages and reduce working conditions. The companies claim their property was seriously damaged through the unseaworthiness of the vessel and the incompetency of the "free and independent" crew.

UNIONIST AT HEAD.

San Francisco, Nov. 19.—Will J. French, chairman of the state industrial accident commission, has been elected chairman of the new state department of labor and industrial relations. This department is a combination of four state departments that relate to labor. Chairman French is a member of the local Typographical union and was formerly editor of the Labor Clarion.

SIGN GOOD ROADS BILL.

Washington, Nov. 19.—The federal highway bill has been signed by President Harding.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

Entered as second-class matter September 30, C. under the Act of August 24, 1912, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

VOL. 11. NO. 36. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1921. WHOLE NO. 555.

"ONE BIG UNION" PLAN REJECTED IN GERMANY

Chicago, Nov. 26.—Sky-shooters and bubble-blowers, who talk "one big union," and want workers thrown into a jumbled mass, will hardly capitalize a recent vote on this question by food-producing unions in Germany.

The unions are the bakery workers, butchers and the brewery-milling workers, having a combined membership of 173,000. But 69,017 was interested enough to vote on a plan that trade unionists in the United States and Canada are told will save the world.

Charles F. Hohmann, editor of the Bakers' Journal, published in this city, reprints figures on this election, which was held throughout Germany on October 9. The vote shows, he says, that "it has not come true what the advocates of the amalgamation have always contended, that the masses would be strongly in favor of it." He says that the lack of interest among workers in his own craft "was simply phenomenal."

"In one district, where 'great enthusiasm' was being artificially created, about one-fifth of the membership participated," although every effort was made by the one big union advocates to get out the vote.

As indicative of this lack of interest, Editor Hohmann quotes from the official newspaper of the Bakery Workers' union before the election:

"It has been apparent that in connection with no other question has there been such a lack of interest as there has been shown for the proposed formation of an industrial organization. Nowhere was there to be found any enthusiasm or love for the new form of organization. Only a few of our members are its convinced supporters, and the great mass seems to be absolutely indifferent to the question."

Editor Hohmann intimates that flamboyant convention declarations do not necessarily express the sentiments of a union's membership. He shows that since 1908 the German bakery workers have unanimously declared in conventions on four different occasions for the industrial form of organization.

"The result of the recent referendum seems to indicate, however, that but a small part of the membership favors the same," he says.

COAL FACTS WANTED; OWNERS EVADE LIGHT

Chicago, Nov. 26.—The coal industry is sick and refuses to let the doctor make an examination, said John Brophy in an address before the public ownership league.

The speaker is president of coal miners' district No. 2 (central Pennsylvania). He is also chairman of the nationalization research committee of the United Mine Workers of America, which has declared for the nationalization of mines.

The address was a challenge to coal owners. The unionist charged these business men with profiteering and quoted their own figures to prove it. He charged them with waste and inefficiency, and quoted government officials and coal owners to prove it.

He charged them with producing coal for the stock market and not for use, and presented statements by stock brokers to prove it.

Despite this array of facts the speaker said that the miners do not ask for a verdict from the public until every source of information is available.

"When the miners ask that all the facts be put at your disposal, the operators start a publicity campaign against facts, through paid advertisements in the newspapers.

"What facts are needed? First, facts are needed on costs and profits. The federal trade commission started to collect this data. In 1920 congress asked the commission to investigate and report the cost of mining coal, and $150,000 was appropriated for the job. The national coal association asked for an injunction stopping the investigation. The injunction was granted because mining coal was not interstate commerce.

"We miners stand for nationalization of the coal industry and as a first step we ask the co-operation of the American people in securing a centralized, continuous and compulsory fact-finding agency. In demanding this I am talking as an American citizen. It is in the interest of the great class of American coal consumers that as a representative of the United Mine Workers of America I ask you to urge congress to pass immediate legislation for a fact-finding agency."

MINERS' WORK NOT PLEASING.

Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 26.—In welcoming a district convention of miners Mayor Barton's speech differed from the usual effort of this kind.

"Your duties as miners," he said, "have always appealed to me as being one I might say of work that is unpleasant. I have been down in the mine, and I will say that I have never cared for work such as you are compelled to do. I doubt if the people who work on top appreciate what you are up against.

"Another thing, I do not believe the people as a rule appreciate, and that is what you are up against with your employer. It appears to me you are kept at work just a part of the time and that if you are only going to be permitted to work a part of the time of course you must have sufficient wages to keep you going. It seems to me a man working half time must have double wages or as much as though he were putting in his entire time."

QUEER COMPENSATION CASE.

Albany, N. Y., Nov. 26.—The state workmen's compensation commission reports a queer compensation case, wherein a worker engaged in moving a house chased a rat from under the building. In attempting to kill the rat with a piece of board a sliver pierced the hand of the worker and blood poisoning developed. In rejecting a claim for compensation it was ruled that if the worker was employed to hunt rats and was injured, he would be compensated, but not under present conditions.

CO-OPS. RETURN SAVINGS.

Farmington, Ill., Nov. 26.—The last quarterly report of the Farmington co-operative society shows a dividend, or returned savings to members, of 8 per cent, amounting to $2,733.51. These co-ops. do business on the Rochdale system—selling at the market price and returning dividends, or savings, on the amount of purchases made. Sales for the quarter totaled $43,074.99.

BAKERS WILL ARBITRATE.

Jersey City, N. J., Nov. 26.—An arbitration agreement has averted a strike of organized bakers, who were asked to accept a 12 per cent wage cut.

MATERNITY BILL PASSED BY HOUSE

Washington, Nov. 26.—The house passed the Sheppard-Towner maternity bill by the surprisingly large vote of 279 to 39. The bill was approved by the senate last June.

Advocates of the bill show that thousands of mothers and babies die annually through lack of maternity education and knowledge of the care of babies. The bill provides for the government to stimulate and aid the several states in promoting the welfare and hygiene of maternity and infancy. The government will appropriate approximately $1,500,000 the first year to be divided among the states according to population, providing the states themselves appropriate an equal amount. The plan of education used by the states must be indorsed by the government. This puts the movement on a solid basis, and removes it from any danger of being controlled by faddists.

There is nothing compulsory about this education, which will be conducted through visiting nurses, clinics for pre-natal cases and consultation centers where mothers may bring their babies for advice. If a state accepts the law, it is optional with mothers to take advantage of it.

AMERICAN SHIPS IDLE SAYS SHIPPING BOARD

New York, Nov. 26.—Only 40 per cent of our exports during September were carried in American ships, said Albert D. Lasker, chairman of the United States shipping board, in a speech before naval architects.

"For a nation with 10,000,000 tons of shipping idle, this is not a record to be proud of," said the speaker, who made no mention of recent exposures which show American railroads have entered into iron-bound contracts with foreign-owned shipping companies to furnish them freight.

In reviewing the small amount of tonnage carried by American ships, Mr. Lasker said the shipping board is not discouraged by existing conditions. The former advertising man failed, however, to comment on the state of mind of the people who are called upon to furnish almost unlimited funds to the shipping board.

REFUNDING RAIL DEBT.

Washington, Nov. 26.—In his letter to Congressman Fordney urging a low surtax on high incomes, President Harding made the interesting statement that the war finance corporation has sold $100,000,000 railroad securities to pay the railroads money owed them by the government. A short time ago the chief executive asked congress for authority to sell $500,000,000 worth of securities the railroads deposited with the government in payment for improvements made while the government controlled the roads. If congress granted the request the roads would be paid amounts due them, and the roads' indebtedness to the government would be postponed, and would be represented by the securities held by the public. Strong objection to this plan was made in congress and the bill is in committee, although its passage is strongly urged by financial interests.

Now it appears that the securities are being quietly sold without congressional action.

UPHOLSTERERS LOCKED OUT.

Tacoma, Wash., Nov. 26.—Organized upholsterers have been locked out by the Washington Parlor Furniture company because they refused to work with non-unionists. The strikers recently accepted two wage cuts in their desire to keep the plant in operation. The present scale is $1 an hour less than San Francisco and Seattle, but this does not satisfy the bosses.

CHINA HAS MANY SPOKESMEN.

Washington, Nov. 26.—Excluding the United States, China has the largest delegation of counselors, advisors, experts and secretaries to its representatives in attendance at the limitation of armament conference. The number of Chinese are 130. Great Britain is next with 106, Japan is next with 54, followed by France with 47.

HALIFAX PRINTERS SCORE.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Nov. 26.—The Typographical union has again scored in its fight to enforce the 44-hour week agreement between employers and the International Typographical union. The local union is slowly beating down opposition of anti-union employers.

CLOAK MAKERS GAIN; OUTGENERAL BOSSES

New York, Nov. 26.—Organized cloak manufacturers have been outgeneraled in an effort to smash the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union. The bosses broke their contract, and would establish piece work, wage reductions and the long work week. As a result, 60,000 employes suspended work following a referendum vote of 38,672 to 162.

The broken agreement cannot be answered by the employers, who are making strenuous efforts to stem the tide against them. They first attempted to conceal their purpose by claims that their success would mean lower prices for women's cloaks, but the unionists destroyed this alibi by showing the small labor cost in these garments. The bosses then insisted that the union interferes with greater productivity, but again the union put the employers on the defensive by showing that the joint production commission, created under the agreement, was considering this question, and that before its report was made the employers precipitated the present situation.

The employers talk about "an honest day's work," which is referred to by President Schlesinger of the garment workers as a "commonplace truism that can be applied in every industrial dispute."

"The union will not allow the issue to be sidetracked in such unceremonious manner," said the workers' representative. "The union insists upon the full performance of the existing agreement, not for the enforcement of a mere technical right, but as a matter of vital practical concern. In the 11 years of contractural dealings between the employers' association and our union, the employers have four times openly repudiated their agreement with the workers."

To prove the union-smashing purpose of the employers, attention is called to this public statement by them, on October 31: "There will be no conference, no negotiation. The manufacturers have decided it. We are turning the tables. That's all. Now we are the doctors."

The broken agreement cannot be answered by the employers and the union is driving this point home with sledge hammer blows. Several thousand strikers have made settlements with independent shops, which have agreed to reinstate former conditions.

Mingo Miners' Solidarity Teaches Lesson To Labor

Charleston, W. Va., Nov. 26.—The West Virginia Federationist draws this moral that should be remembered by organized labor:

"The miners of Mingo county have taught the greatest lesson of the results of solidarity that can be learned, and one that should carry enlightenment throughout the state. Thrown upon the public highways before the ink had dried upon their charters they united and have carried on the greatest resistance to organized greed in the history of the American labor movement and while this battle is raging it is to be deplored that union men who have been members of the organization for 20 years, throughout the state are quibbling and squabbling in their locals over the merest trifles and thus weakening the morale of the movement.

"Cut out your foolishness, take a lesson of solidarity of action from the Mingo miners and solidify your forces and unite in one grand movement for the advancement of the cause of the working class. Personal feelings, selfish motives and self aggrandisement have no place in the ranks of organized labor."

FORESTRY IS PROBLEM.

Washington, Nov. 26.—"The United States produces more than half of the entire lumber cut of the world and uses 95 per cent of that amount right here at home," says Col. W. B. Greeley, chief of the United States forest service.

"The exhaustion of our timber supply is coming about, not because we have used our forests freely, but because we have failed to use our timber-growing land.

"We have more than 80,000,000 acres, an area greater than all the forests of France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Spain and Portugal, which have been denuded to the point of absolute idleness so far as the production of any timber of commercial value is concerned. We are adding to these areas of idle or largely idle land from 10,000,000 to 15,000,000 acres every year as destructive logging and still more destructive burning progress.

"This situation can not long continue without grave consequences. If we are to remain a nation of wood users we must become a nation of wood growers. By some means or other we must see to it that forest lands not needed for agriculture are not allowed to lie idle, but are kept at work growing timber."

ONE MILLION A MONTH.

Indianapolis, Nov. 26.—Receipts of the International Typographical union for the month September 20 to October 20 totaled $1,047,526.61. Of this vast amount $883,057.47 was for the 44-hour week assessment, $54,245.80 for the mortuary fund and $50,718.42 for the old-age assessment.

With more than a million a month pouring into the treasury of this union employers believe they can "get away" with their contract-breaking policy.

Two years ago these employers agreed with the union to install the 44-hour week on May 1, 1921. They have violated this agreement and their action is approved by every anti-unionist in the country, who lectures organized labor on the sacredness of contracts.

EMPLOYMENT FIGURES.

Washington, Nov. 26.—In comparing employment figures of October, 1921, with those for 14 identical establishments in October, 1920, the bureau of labor statistics reports that in eight of the industries employment increased and in the remaining six less employment was recorded. The largest increase, 52.5 per cent, is in the woolen industry. Men's ready-made clothing increased 30.5 per cent. The iron and steel industry shows the largest decrease in employment, 37.8 per cent.

PACKERS' COMPANY "UNION" PROVES GOOD INVESTMENT

HOW ANTI-UNIONISTS CONFUSE PUBLIC MIND

Can workers be said to accept a proposition when it is feared they will not accept?

The public was informed that the meat packers' company "union" accepted wage reductions, but no effort was made to distinguish between workers and their alleged representatives who were selected under a plan worked out by the meat barons.

The packers' publicity agents first state that the employes' "voluntary" wage cut marks an era in industrial history.

With this thought fixed in the public mind, they naively state that the final test will come when the employes receive their first pay envelope under the new plan.

Chicago, Nov. 26.—The meat packers agree that company "unions" are an improvement on the crude and expensive union-smashing, strike-breaking policy so long used by them.

The packers call their company "unions" plant councils, which consist of an equal number of workers' and packers' representatives. Recently the employers gave notice that a wage cut is necessary. This served to break the ice, to prepare workers for the mournful days to come. The next act saw representatives of the company "union" conferring with employers, who stressed the importance of wage cuts.

Financial records were introduced in the conference and company experts led the workers into the maze of capital accounts, depreciation, sinking funds, debentures, amortization, liquidation, write offs, refunding and profits and loss.

It was as plain to these workers as the Einstein theory, but they were assured by the experts that "the figures speak for themselves."

Then the meat packers' representatives in the company "union" staged their part. They assumed a horrified attitude at the "financial situation which confronts our employers." They assured the assemblage that the public would likewise be shocked. Of course, they understood that financial conditions are not satisfactory but they never dreamed that their employers were in such financial straits. Under the circumstances, no one could deny the need—the very urgent need—for wage reduction.

All eyes were then turned on the workers' representatives who have nothing behind them but a paper "union" controlled by the bosses.

The inevitable happened. Wage reductions were voted, which include a rate of 25 cents an hour for women employes. The meat packers gleefully announced that "this is the first time in the history of industry that wage reductions have been made in such a manner."

The packers may well be joyful. The company "union" fights their battle. The money they have invested in "high brows" and "intellectuals" to work out this system has paid greater dividends than their expensive private detectives, injunction judges, strike-breakers and subsidized public officials.

All that is necessary now is to force these cuts on the rank and file of butcher workmen. Many of these employes are organized in the regular Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen. This organization opposes the lowering of wages and the company "union."

Rockefeller's "Union" Meets Predicted Fate

Denver, Nov. 26.—The 1914 miners' strike in southern Colorado was followed by a company "union," approved by John D. Rockefeller, jr., and hailed by President Welborn of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company as industrial democracy. The company is a Rockefeller unit.

Tons of valuable white paper was used to explain the new system that would end strikes. Hard headed trade unionists were called cynics and joy killers when they predicted failure of the new "union," but their prophecy has been fulfilled.

The company has reduced wages 30 per cent, in violation of an award by the government's bituminous coal commission, and in violation of the state industrial law which provides that 30 days' notice must be given before wages are reduced or workers strike.

The commission took no action against the company and the coal miners suspended work. The company "union" has been forgotten and martial law proclaimed, as in the days of Ludlow.

The commission will appreciate information whereby it can jail these workers without being censured for not taking action against the company when it violated the law.

OLD FOGIES IN NAVY.

Newport, R. I., Nov. 26.—The country's navy has its share of old fogies, according to an address by Admiral Sims, president of the naval war college. He said the submarine and air plane are in their infancy, and that indisposition to utilize new ideas, weapons and methods of demonstrated value had been due to a habit of mind that could be indulged in the past with comparative safety, "but which is manifestly a danger to a country that has become involved in international politics."

He said "military conservatism" has often been responsible for defeat in battle and sometimes for national disaster. He cited Fulton and Ericcson to prove his statement that "inventors have always had a hard time in convincing high naval officials of the merits of their invention."

KILLED BY SMOKING.

Utica, N. Y., Nov. 26.—Edward Bubrey died at his home in Clayville, near here. He was an incessant smoker and was 105 years old at the time of his death.

Tampa Cigar Bosses Driving Wages Down

Tampa, Fla., Nov. 26.—For brutality and unsatisfied greed, cigar makers in this city will back their employers against the world.

These workers resisted wage cuts over a year ago, and after a 10-months' strike went back to work under a promise that wages would not be cut again. Notwithstanding this agreement, rates were cut last July, and now a second cut is proposed.

Newspapers and business men are preparing an "atmosphere" for the bosses by heralding riots, police calls and arrests. This was the policy during the 10-months' strike and during a strike several years ago, when trade unionists were ordered to leave the city by a mob of business men.

HOW ROADS ARE WRECKED.

New York, Nov. 26.—Just when the nation's railroads are pleading for lower wages, that these properties may be stabilized, along comes stockholders of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad with a suit in the federal court against directors who are charged with looting the road and robbing the stockholders. The suit reveals the usual sordid story of respectable second-story men, operating through interlocking directorates, but all directed by a small group in control of the Missouri Pacific, or "Gould system." One unit of this system is the Western Pacific, whose bonds are guaranteed by the Denver & Rio Grande. It is charged that these interlocking directors permitted interest on the Western Pacific to go by default, although the Denver & Rio Grande had ample funds to pay the interest. The directors then permitted the Western Pacific to be sold so quietly that the stockholders did not wake up until property valued at millions of dollars was given away—to the directors. Coal lands of untold value were also included in the deal. First mortgage bonds were sold for a song and $55,000,000 in second mortgages and notes were wiped out.

FOOD PRICES HOLD.

Washington, Nov. 26.—Average food prices in 51 important cities were practically the same in October as in September, reports the bureau of labor statistics. Throughout the entire country these prices decreased but three-tenths of 1 per cent, or about one-third of a cent on every dollar expended for food.

Of the 43 food articles on which monthly prices are secured, 28 reported price decreases and 15 articles advanced in price, with no change reported in corn flakes, cream of wheat, canned corn, coffee.

SENATE SURTAX IS UPHELD; WAR RICH PROPAGANDA FAILS

Washington, Nov. 26.—Despite heroic measures to escape taxation, America's war rich have lost their fight to have the surtax, or extra tax, on large incomes cut in two. The president entered the fight for lower surtaxes, but nearly 100 members of his party refused to follow him.

In a letter to Congressman Fordney, chairman of the house ways and means committee, the chief executive said that while he favored a 32 per cent surtax, he believed 40 per cent would be a fair compromise.

The present law provides for a 65 per cent surtax. The house changed this to 32 per cent, when it passed the new revenue bill. A country-wide protest, that was especially strong in the west, forced the senate to raise the figures to 50 per cent. When the differences reached the house, that body ignored the president's letter and accepted the senate's figures by a vote of 201 to 173.

In urging the 50 per cent surtax Congressman Sinnott of Oregon, showed the reason for the propaganda for lower taxes on high incomes. The 32 per cent surtax of the house, or the 50 per cent of the senate, he said, made little differences to incomes of $75,000.

But when you get to the man with an income of $100,000, he said, the saving is $2,730 under the 32 per cent tax.

"When you get to the man with $1,000,000 a year income he is saving $274,730 under this proposition of 32 per cent.

"How can you justify such discrimination?" asked the law maker. "There is no material reduction in taxes by the house surtax rates till you reach an income of $100,000 per annum, when the reduction is $2,730; for $150,000 incomes the reduction is $12,730; for $200,000 incomes the reduction is $22,730; from this point on the reduction is startling, being $274,730 for $1,000,000 and $1,594,730 for a $5,000,000 income.

"Oh, they tell us that this surplus money, these earnings of the man with a big income like $1,000,000 a year, is being poured into non-taxable securities.

"Did you ever try to find out from the treasury department in the last six months what has been the increase over prior years in the purchase of non-taxable securities by men having an income of $66,000 and over?

"If you have, you have received no information. They have had six months to produce these statistics—six months to go over 12,000 returns. There is a presumption of law—I do not wish to invoke it here—that he who suppresses evidence suppresses it because it is against him. Senators and representatives have written to the treasury department for this information and it has not been forthcoming."

REPEAL PROFITS TAX; FREE HAND FOR BIG BIZ

Washington, Nov. 26.—Big business has won its fight for repeal of the excess profits tax, and after this year the merry game of gouging will be clear velvet, without contributions to the treasury department.

For months the people have been told that this tax is a check on business initiative, and men who pose as leaders of the nation have joined in the confusing hubbub, ignoring the law, which provides a tax not on normal profits, or large profits, but on "excess profits." Section 312 of the law says:

"That the excess profits credit shall consist of a specific exemption of $3,000, plus an amount of credit equal to 8 per cent of the invested capital for the taxable year."

This means that after a business man pays salaries to himself and associate managers, wages to his employes, interest on his bonds, sets aside substantial sums for depreciation of plant, provides for a sinking fund to care for outstanding indebtedness, etc., he may then set aside $3,000 of his profits, and then an additional amount equal to 8 per cent of his invested capital.

Then and not till then are his profits subject to an 8 per cent tax under the excess profits tax.

Even under these conditions the capitalist can conceal large amounts through a ruling that he may inventory his plant at the present market price rather than the original cost.

The treasury department estimates that the excess profits for 1920 will amount to $850,000,000, and that this year's tax will total about one-half of that amount.

These vast sums will be increased beyond computation in the coming days of prosperity, but no portion of them will assist in paying the nation's debts.

The repeal of this law will put an added war tax burden on the common people, who are being called upon to pay the staggering war debt, including an annual interest charge of $1,000,000,000 on the Liberty and Victory bonds.

TAX STOCK DIVIDENDS.

Washington, Nov. 26.—Stock dividends are taxable when there is a reorganization and this stock extends to the new company, rules the United States supreme court.

The decision means that John D. Rockefeller and Edith Hale Harkness must pay the government $16,000,000 and the duPont Powder company must turn in about $24,000,000.

Stock dividends means that the capital stock of a concern is increased when profits are so large that they may attract attention. Instead of receiving these excessive profits the stockholder is given additional stock upon which he pays no income. This practice has been upheld by the United States supreme court.

The scheme has been enlarged to include reorganizations, but the court now holds that stock dividends, when issued in this manner, shall be classed as income, and are subject to the income tax.

The amount of money the defendants are called upon to pay the government will give some idea of profits that have been made during the past few years.

WHO KILLED COCK ROBIN?

Washington, Nov. 26.—Under the above caption the Washington Herald makes this editorial comment on the defeat of Senator Smoot's sales tax plan:

"It is said, that Senator Smoot is wondering who killed his cock-robin, in the form of a sales tax. This is not hard to tell. It was put to death before born by the same men and interests, all over the country, who fathered it. They belong to that larger and widely distributed class of the pass-along-the-tax with the multiplication table. The folks outside the circle are heartily tired of that sort of tax which can be passed on to them double, treble or quadruple.

"The proposed sales tax was theoretically unobjectionable. But it was distinctly a consumption tax and no power under heaven could keep its addition to price being no more than the principal.

"Other forms of taxation might be worse, but had not been so industriously advertised. There was perhaps a chance that some of it would be collected from them only once, or that even a part would be paid but once and that by the person against whom it was originally assessed. It is one blessing of even nuisance taxes that those who pay know the exact amount, pay it, and that is the end of it."

UPHOLD OPEN PRICE PLAN.

Chicago, Nov. 26.—Federal District Judge Carpenter has refused the government's request that the American Linseed company and allied concerns be held violators of the Sherman anti-trust act.

The defendants are members of an "open" price association, which exchanges prices. The government insisted that this association is a conspiracy to fix and enhance prices and check competition.

There was no proof that any member of the association was under obligation to uphold prices, said Judge Carpenter, who declared that it is a false theory to say that because there might be opportunity to fix prices it must be found that prices had been fixed.

The court's reasoning is of interest to trade unionists, who often find courts less inclined to demand specific information when they are issuing labor injunctions.

MAY SUE UNIONS.

Birmingham, Ala., Nov. 26.—Coal owners are jubilant over the passage of a state law which provides that "actions or suits may be maintained against and in the name of any unincorporated organization or association for any cause of action for or upon which the plaintiff therein may maintain such an action against the members of such organization or association."

This makes it possible to sue trade unions as organizations.

WAGES ARE LOWERED.

New Haven, Conn., Nov. 26.—"Normalcy" has struck this city with a vengeance. Employment is improved in the large machine shops, where men are being offered 29 and 30 cents an hour for machine work and 35 cents for skilled machinists. In some cases a working week of 54 hours is demanded.

PLAN TO SCRAP BATTLE SHIPS BACKED BY ORGANIZED LABOR

Washington, Nov. 26.—The A. F. of L. executive council made the following declarations on the armament conference at its quarterly meeting, held in this city:

"Resolved, that the magnificent proposal for the reduction and limitation of naval armament, laid before the international conference on limitation of armament by the American delegation on behalf of the government and the people of the United States, be indorsed in most emphatic terms and in relation thereto the following be adopted as expressive of our convictions upon the issues as they stand:

"The American delegation spoke for America in proposing the wholesale destruction of war ships.

"The American delegation spoke for America in proposing the absolute cessation of warship construction for a period of 10 years.

"America is unitedly in favor of these proposals.

"America, we believe, is willing and ready to place its full trust in the methods of democracy and in the efficiency and integrity of democracy.

"America, we trust, will continue on the inspiring course laid down at the outset by its delegation, for whom Secretary Hughes was the spokesman, and will, on every point, take the same lofty and advanced position, transcending, if possible, the note which was struck on that first memorable day.

"We record the position of America's workers, for whom we speak, as being in absolute accord with the utmost degree of disarmament, with the utmost effort to destroy the machinery of war and to make unnecessary and impossible the appetites, the jealousies, the rivalries and the intrigue that lead to war.

"And we trust that America will blaze the way even beyond consideration of the armaments of nations and the rivalries of nations; and will seek to bring them into some permanent accord which will be organic and definite, to the end that there may be made possible those necessary recurring adjustments and adjudications which are vital to permanent harmony between peoples and nations."

$200 Daily Profit Is Made in Milk

Washington, Nov. 26.—Pity the poor milk dealer—not the little fellow with one or two cows, but the concern that deals in this commodity by the car load.

The manager of one of these concerns in the nation's capital told a congressional milk investigating committee that he has made a profit of $200 every day for the last nine months. His total profit during that period was $38,900. This does not include annual salaries aggregating $37,000 which his family draws out of the business and of which he receives $13,000. Five of his sons are on the pay roll and two of them are paid $10,000 a year.

The witness stated that practically every large milk dealer in Washington violates the milk regulations by selling car loads of adulterated milk. He explained in detail how the milk is made by mixing dry powder and water and how cream is thickened by running it through a machine.

"INCOMPETENT BOURBONS."

Washington, Nov. 26.—"Incompetent bourbons" is the stinging epitaph applied to railroad managers by Rev. John A. Ryan in discussing the near-railroad strike in a social magazine.

"Now that the strike is called off," he says, "it is in order to congratulate the officers of the unions on their moderation, their public spirit and their capacity for sacrifice.

"To the railway heads, no praise nor credit is due, for they showed themselves unyielding and as inconsiderate of the public as of their employes. They are flagrant types of incompetent bourbons."

The clergyman called attention to the insistence of some newspapers, that a strike against an order of the railroad labor board is a violation of law.

"A few of the papers positively answered in the affirmative, while others used language to suggest the same conclusion," he said. "This is wrong; for the Cummins-Esch act merely requires the two parties to submit a dispute to the railroad labor board; it does not command them to accept the board's decision."

BUSINESS MAN WAKES UP.

Cleveland, Nov. 26.—At least one business man in this city is awake to the purposes of anti-union employers. Writing in the Cleveland Press, he says:

"All this effort to force the 'open' shop into all lines of industry does not appeal to me now as it did in the beginning. We were swayed by flowery talk. I see the fallacy of such a plan now. Low wages will not adjust. The most prosperous period of my business life was when men were paid good wages. Every merchant must depend upon the patronage of the wage earners, whether employed in factory, office or store. If wages are forced down by the 'American plan' association to such an extent that the workers scarcely have enough with which to buy the actual necessities of life, how can the merchant ever hope to enjoy a prosperous business?"

COMMUNISTS AID BOSSES.

Boston, Nov. 26.—The Typographical union is circulating an answer to the local typothetae, which has printed an attack on officers of the Boston Typographical union and the International Typographical union.

The article circulated by the typothetae is reprinted from the Workers' Challenge, organ of the communist party, and attacks the union executives because they insisted on contract observance in this city.

In its reply the local union says: "Such propaganda on the part of the typothetae is significant. Have their leaders joined hands with 'Big Bill' Haywood and the Moscow international?"

SIX CENTS A QUART PROFIT.

New York, Nov. 26.—Milk dealers who forced their teamsters on strike because of wage differences, are making 6 cents' profit on each quart of milk instead of one-half cent, as advertised, says President Sterbinisky, president of the Milk Drivers' union in an affidavit.

[illegible] action against [illegible] who are charged with monopolizing the delivery of milk. The affidavit says milk dealers not only admit they have a monopoly of milk distribution in this city, but boast that "95 per cent of all milk distributed in the five boroughs is distributed by them."

MATERNITY BILL IS EDUCATIONAL

Washington, Nov. 26.—Few legislative proposals before congress has been so misrepresented as the Sheppard-Towner maternity and infancy bill, which provides for co-operation between the federal government and the various states in an educational campaign among those mothers who desire this information.

Lurid charges have been made that the government would enter the homes, etc., etc. The incorrectness of this statement is indicated by the following discussion between Congressman Meyer London and Congressman Barkley, a member of the committee having the bill in charge:

"Mr. London—The department of agriculture spends money out of the treasury of the United States to teach how to breed cattle, does it not?

"Mr. Barkley—Yes.

"Mr. London—And to impart other valuable information to the agricultural classes of the people. Now, the only thing this bill does is to aid the educational facilities of certain bureaus of the government; is not that true?

"Mr. Barkley—Absolutely."

NEW ANTI-UNION WARWICK.

New York, Nov. 26.—The latest addition to the anti-union forces is Alfred J. Beveridge, former United States senator from Indiana. The ex-lawmaker has posed as a "liberal," but his speech shows how easy this brand of "liberalism" slips into reaction's camp.

In a speech before the state chamber of commerce he said he denounced "invisible government" 10 years ago, but now another "invisible government" has appeared.

"This new assailant of ordered liberty and American institutions is the close and closed corporations of those men who have made themselves masters of labor unions," he roared.

In his most flowery style, Beveridge reeled off his citizens alliance speech to the delight of business men who like to hear organized labor and its struggles for improved working conditions listed with organized capitalists, whose goal is profits.

John J. Cornwell, former governor of West Virginia, followed. He pictured the dangers if the government takes over the coal mines of West Virginia. No one in that state is seriously advocating this plan, but Cornwell's speech "went big," just the same. His reference to "Americanization" is the same tepid stuff he dealt in while governor of West Virginia when he gave gunmen and anti-union coal owners a free hand.

SAME OLD DREARY YAWP.

New York, Nov. 26.—In making his report to the annual convention of the National Founders' association, William H. Barr, president, sang the same old citizen's alliance yawp.

It recalled the days of Parry and Post when the Buffalo anti-unionist said that unionism wants to set itself up as an independent organization, "immune to the breaking of all laws and wholly without recognition of its patriotic duty to the nation which tolerates its baneful activities."

The convention declared in favor of settling disputes between railroads and employes through a tribunal composed exclusively of the public. If the workers would not accept decisions of this board, they would be jailed. As a corporation cannot be jailed, it would be fined for disobedience. The convention instructed its officials to forward copies of this wonderous scheme to the members of congress.

NEW PUBLIC WORKS PLAN.

Washington, Nov. 26.—Senator Kenyon has introduced an unemployment bill which includes a policy recommended by the president's conference on unemployment. The bill provides for long range planning of public works.

The preamble states that a sound economic policy requires that a larger percentage of public works and projects of the United States be undertaken and carried to completion during periods of depression when capital and labor are not fully employed in private industry, and, on the other hand, that a smaller percentage of such projects shall be undertaken when private industry is active.

MANY DEATHS IN MINES.

Washington, Nov. 26.—Accidents last year at mines producing gold, silver and miscellaneous metals caused the death of 117 men and the injury of 5,164, according to the United States bureau of mines.